



# Current News

Volume 71 Number 4 April, 2025

A monthly publication for the members of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative

*Linemen Appreciation Day is April 14...*

## Cooperative linemen are wired for service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, linemen begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Linemen Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, linemen exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, linemen demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Eastern Iowa REC crews travel across our 12-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay



operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, linemen emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Eastern Iowa REC linemen also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is

needed. Four Eastern Iowa REC linemen traveled to South Carolina last fall to aid in the power restoration efforts following Hurricane Helene. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than linemen.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—linemen, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



## The nomination period for the director elections has closed; 2025 scholarship winners will be listed in the May Current News

All candidates who turned in petitions with 15 signatures of members within their district will be on the ballot for the director elections to be held during the 2025 district meetings.

These meetings will be held in July

and early August. Look for details in future issues of the *Current News* and online at [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com).

The candidate profiles will be available in the July issue of the *Current News*.

All completed 2025 Cooperative

scholarship and Youth Tour applications have been forwarded to a panel of independent judges.

The winners of the 2025 scholarships and Youth Tour trip will be announced and in the May issue of the *Current News*.



# Eastern Iowa REC celebrates 90th anniversary

Eastern Iowa REC is celebrating 90 years of business in 2025. To commemorate this milestone, we will share a fun fact, historic photo or bit of Cooperative history each month in the *Current News*.

As the Cooperative began to grow, it was decided area offices were needed so that line crews could be within a one-hour drive to any portion of the service territory.

Service centers in DeWitt and Wapello were opened in 1947. A third facility was opened in Lone Tree in 1949. Also in that year, the Cooperative's headquarters was moved from downtown Davenport to Wilton to be more centrally located within the service territory.

All four of these facilities have since been replaced with new buildings: Lone

Tree in 1996; DeWitt in 2009; Wilton in 2015; and Wapello in 2021.



DeWitt Service Center



Wapello Service Center



Lone Tree Service Center



Wilton Service Center

## Save the dates for upcoming important Cooperative meetings

Planning for the 2025 Eastern Iowa REC district meetings has started.

This year the district meetings will start July 23 at the Durant Community Center for District 3. Other meetings will be held July 28 at the DeWitt Community Center for District 1, July 30 at the Lone Tree School Cafeteria for District 4, Aug. 4 at the Cedar County Fairgrounds Matthews Building for District 2, and Aug. 5 at the Mediapolis High School for District 5. All meetings will start at 7 p.m.

*Please note the new locations for the District 2 and District 5 meetings.*

Look for additional details in future issues of the *Current News* and online, [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com).

## Cooperative welcomes three new employees

Logan Eubanks, Shawn Crees and Aaron Brau recently began their Cooperative employment. Logan started on Monday, Feb. 3, as an engineering intern at the Wilton service center. Shawn started on Monday, Feb. 10, as a

storekeeper at the Wilton service center. Aaron started March 10 as a journeyman lineman at the DeWitt service center.

We welcome them all to the Eastern Iowa REC team.

## West Burlington adopts a new franchise fee

Eastern Iowa REC members within the city limits of West Burlington will see a new franchise fee on their monthly energy bills starting in May. The West Burlington City Council adopted Ordinance 859 on January 22, 2025, implementing the franchise fee.

The fee will take effect with energy used in April. This will be a 3% fee on gross receipts from the sale of electricity to Cooperative members located within the corporate limits of West Burlington. The fee will affect approximately 40 Eastern Iowa REC members. While the fee is collected via Cooperative energy bills, the funds go to the City of West Burlington.

Anyone with questions about the new franchise fee should contact Stephanie Miene, Cooperative economic development director, 563-732-7354 or [stephanie.miene@easterniowa.com](mailto:stephanie.miene@easterniowa.com).



Logan Eubanks



Shawn Crees



Aaron Brau

## Bylaws are available

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the bylaws of Eastern Iowa REC are available to anyone interested, either members of the Cooperative or the general public, at the reception counter of the headquarters office at Wilton, Iowa, and at Cooperative service centers in Wapello, DeWitt, and Lone Tree, Iowa. The Bylaws are available online at [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com) under the "My Coop" tab or you may call 1-855-938-3616 to request a copy.

# Taking a closer look at the Super Off-Peak Rate

Looking for ways to lower your electric bill? If you can shift a significant

portion of your energy use to late-night hours, our Super Off-Peak Rate might

be a great fit for you!

## Comparing Rates

See the two charts illustrating the time-of-use rate schedules.

The Super Off-Peak Rate reduces your cost per kWh by 45% during Super Off-Peak hours.

However, the Off-Peak Rate increases by 35%, so it's important to evaluate your energy habits before making the switch.

## Who Can Benefit?

If at least 35% of your daily energy use occurs between 12 AM – 6 AM, you could save money by switching to the Super Off-Peak Rate.

- Electric Vehicle (EV) Owners – If you charge your electric vehicle overnight (12 AM – 6 AM), this rate could significantly lower your costs.

Interested in learning more or making a rate change? Contact Energy Advisor Max Holtz ([max.holtz@easterniowa.com](mailto:max.holtz@easterniowa.com)) today to see if the Super Off-Peak Rate is a good fit for you!



Spring is the perfect time for a little energy-efficient cleaning! A few simple changes can freshen up your home and lower your energy bill.

On mild days, open windows and use fans instead of running the A/C. Spending more time outside means using fewer lights and appliances indoors—an effortless way to save energy!

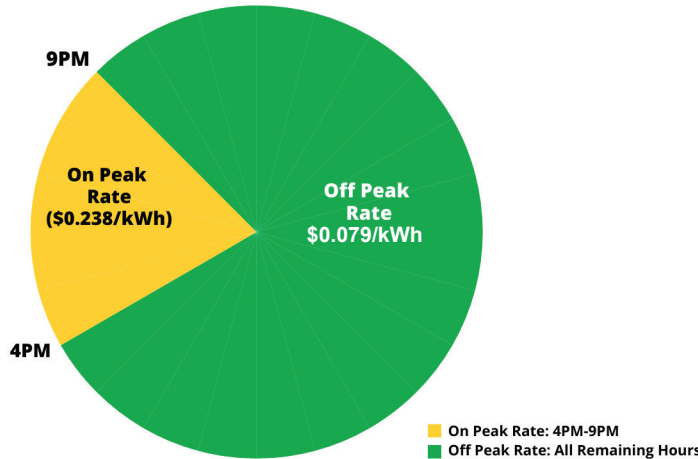
A little maintenance now can lead to a cooler, more efficient summer. Dust and clean light fixtures and lampshades—built-up dust can block light, making bulbs less effective and increasing energy use. Brighter, cleaner lighting means you can use lower-wattage bulbs or fewer lights overall.

Happy saving!

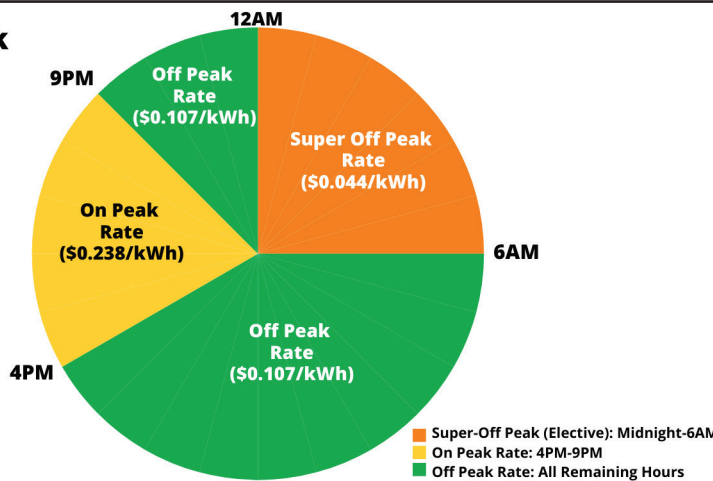


**MONTHLY CHALLENGE**  
 1- Set your ceiling fan to spin counterclockwise for a cooling breeze.  
 2- Clean your fridge's condenser coils – A quick vacuum can improve efficiency and keep it running smoothly.  
 A little effort now means big savings later!  
 - Max

## Time-Of-Rate Schedule



## Super Off Peak Time-Of-Rate Schedule



# Get charged up with our Level II Charger Rebate!

Thinking about installing an electric vehicle (EV) charger at home? Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative is here to help! We offer a rebate that covers 50% of the installed cost (including labor), up to \$350.00!

## Rebate Details

- One charger per home – Must be installed at the service address listed on your application.
- Requires a 240/208-volt input supply – Ensure your electrical panel can support it.

- Professional installation recommended – A qualified electrician can ensure a safe setup.
- Commercial Rebates – Businesses can receive rebates for up to five chargers, with a maximum rebate of \$1,000 per charger.

Make the switch to convenient, at-home EV charging and take advantage of this rebate today! Contact Energy Advisor Max Holtz at [max.holtz@easterniowa.com](mailto:max.holtz@easterniowa.com) or call 563-732-7353 for more details.



## Attention Landlords:

Please provide your contact information to the Cooperative for any rental properties served by Eastern Iowa REC. This allows the Cooperative to contact you in the event power is to be disconnected to a rental property. Call 1-855-938-3616.





## Comments from the CEO

# We recognize the efforts of our linemen and all of the Cooperative workforce

Electric cooperatives across the country recognize National Linemen Appreciation Day April 14. The U.S. Senate declared April 18, 2013, as Linemen Appreciation Day, but this was a one-time resolution. Because the 2013 designation was a one-time resolution and to avoid having that date coincide with a holiday or weekend, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board designated the second Monday of every April as Linemen Appreciation Day.

Our group of linemen are part of a dedicated team of employees at the Cooperative working hard each day to ensure all Cooperative members receive the best possible service. From our energy advisors and member service representatives, to our engineering staff, technology professionals, our accounting, inventory, warehouse, mechanics and human resources professionals, we all strive to make certain the Cooperative operates as reliably and efficiently as possible.

We pause to recognize our linemen this month, but we also realize Eastern Iowa REC only accomplishes its mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to its members through the efforts of an entire

team of dedicated employees.

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America is at an energy crossroads. Critical generation resources are being retired faster than they can be reliably replaced, while electricity demand is surging. Smart energy policies that keep the lights on are more important than ever.

The changing energy landscape requires time and technology beyond what is available today. It must be inclusive of all energy sources to maintain the reliable and affordable flow of power.

Electric cooperatives rely on a diverse energy mix to ensure a reliable, affordable and responsible electricity supply that meets the needs of their members.

Policymakers must approach national energy policy with affordability and reliability at the core while also balancing aspiration with reality. They must recognize the need for time, along with technology and new transmission infrastructure development, before taking our nation down an energy path that prioritizes speed over practicality. America's electric cooperatives support efforts to maintain a diverse supply of always available energy technologies that are essential to keeping the lights on.



Kirk Trede  
CEO

### From the Boardroom, February, 2025

- Approved annual reliability report.
- Approved a capital budget amendment.
- Reviewed 2025 Annual Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on April 24, 2025.

## Clip this item and help others

Eastern Iowa REC has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your Cooperative has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in the weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! You care, we care, RECare.

YES, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution

Please mail to: RECare

Eastern Iowa REC  
P.O. Box 3003  
Wilton, IA 52778-3003

to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare.

I understand this amount will be my monthly pledge added to my bill.

RECare

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## Current News Monthly Quiz

### Quiz Winners:

David Curtis,  
Princeton  
Kathy Henke,  
Wapello

Keith DeWalle,  
Riverside  
Judie Petersen,  
Goose Lake

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email answers to [info@easterniowa.com](mailto:info@easterniowa.com). Be sure to include your name, address and Eastern Iowa REC account number on all quiz answer entries.

Four winners will be drawn from all submissions with the correct answers. The winners will receive a \$25 bill credit.

### Question 1

When were the Cooperative's DeWitt and Wapello service centers opened?

### Question 2

Who is the Cooperative's new engineering intern?

### Question 3

Which direction should your ceiling fan spin for a cooling breeze?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

REC Account \_\_\_\_\_

## Current News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Kathrine Wunderlich, president; Ken Purdy, vice president; Kurt Olson, secretary; Michael Bixler, treasurer; Henry Bentley, assistant secretary; Gary Bruns, Joel Carstensen, Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright, Allan Duffe, Tom Hotz, Gary Kester, Robert Schnieder Jr., Mike Shuger, Denise Timmerman, Bradley Weiss.

Kirk Trede  
CEO

Jim Williams  
Communications Director

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101 Surrey Drive.

Lone Tree  
309 W. Commercial St.

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